

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 886

By Matheny

A RESOLUTION relative to this state's growing senior citizen population.

WHEREAS, the AARP anticipates that between 2002 and 2030 this nation's population of persons age 65 and over will more than double from 35.6 million to 71.5 million; and

WHEREAS, at the tail end of this exponential growth in our senior population, 1 in 5 Americans will be 65 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, the average person attaining the age of 65 today can expect to live an additional 18 years, or 6 years longer than a person reaching the age of 65 in 1940 could expect to live; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens are indeed a treasure in our society as they possess a wealth of knowledge and experience; however, it is inarguable that our rapidly growing senior population will eventually place great stress on this state's and this nation's infrastructure systems, from health care to housing, from the job market to the supermarket; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee would do well to prepare now for the future needs of our escalating senior population by planning for the retirement of the Baby Boomer generation and the implications of longer life expectancy; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly does hereby unequivocally commit this state's resources to maintaining and improving the quality of life for Tennessee's senior citizens by identifying ways and means to keep our pension, health care, and other systems affordable and sustainable for generations to come.